

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at 6:30 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused. Comm. Arsenault and Comm. Pellow.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on March 28, 2006 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Jim Gauthier, HC1 County Road 550, Marquette, requested that the Kennecott issue regarding Roads 550 and 510 as the primary routes for transporting outgoing ore carriers and returning trucks be put on the agenda. He distributed a pack of information to each Commissioner.

William Umstead, Ely Township, Ishpeming, spoke regarding concerns for the residents who live along the Kennecott haul routes. He requested the County Board oppose these routes.

Patricia Cianciola, County Road 550, Marquette, also requested the issue be put on the agenda.

Dennis Boe, HC1, Big Bay, applauded the County Board for the improvements made to County Road 550, however opposes the hauling. He also discussed holes in the Environmental Protection Plan.

Kelly Matthews, County Road 550, addressed Commissioners regarding petitions presented to the County Board along with concerns she had regarding placement on the agendas.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the addition of Item 5a) Kennecott/County Road 550/510 Hauling Route.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 1, 2006 through April 7, 2006 in the amount of \$358,070.22 be approved

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The Committee considered comments by the 550 and 510 Coalition regarding Kennecott Eagle Minerals' proposed use of Marquette County roads for mining transportation purposes. Jim Gauthier, HC1, Co. Rd. 550, Marquette, addressed the County Board and presented petitions with over 800 signatures which reads as follows:

"PETITION to the Marquette County Board, Marquette County Road Commission, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Dept. of Transportation.

We, the undersigned, oppose the use of Marquette County Roads 550 and 510 by Kennecott Minerals for transportation related to mining activities and operations.

We believe the transport of metal-laden sulfide ores and resulting dusts over these deteriorated roads, with their close proximity to streams, wetlands, and homes, will cause significant damage to our natural resources, reduce tourism, endanger human health and safety, and degrade our quality of life in Northern Marquette County."

Mr. Gauthier also presented a resolution asking the County Board to designate one of its members to represent the public's concerns to the DEQ at the April 18, 2006 public meeting addressing the fact that the permit lacks information about location and impact of proposed transportation routes.

Patricia Cianciola, Co. Rd. 550, Marquette, also addressed the County Board and read the following comments:

"To the Marquette County Board by the 550 & 510 Coalition Regarding Kennecott Eagle Minerals' Proposed use of Marquette County Roads for Mining Transportation Purposes.

Thank You to the Commission for hearing our concerns regarding the use of County Roads 510 & 550 proposed to be used as Mine Haulage Roads in the Mining Application recently submitted by Kennecott Eagle Minerals which is currently under study by the Michigan DEQ.

We ask that these comments and this written text be entered into the formal minutes from this meeting.

The Michigan Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Regulations Part 632 defines and addresses the regulation and control by local units of governments. These specific rules are included for the record.

In the interest of time, we paraphrase from the regulations that read:

"...A local unit of government may enact, maintain, and enforce ordinances, regulations, or resolutions regulating the hours at which mining operations may take place and routes used by vehicles in connection with mining operations and that water quality monitoring can take place..."

As the Kennecott Mining Application fails to address the certain impacts to Co. Rd. 510 & 550, Wright Street or US 41 used in mining operations, and failing to provide alternatives or contingencies, we are left with the following concerns: Traffic safety; Hours of operation; Emergency plans for cleanup of mined materials spilled; The health and environmental impact of air-borne dusts; The monitoring of the water quality of the numerous stream crossings from the mine site to the City of Marquette; Increased law enforcement and emergency services to address the increased traffic risks; Rapid deterioration of roads; Quality of life to residents and visiting tourists.

As Elected Officials and addressing the concerns of your constituents, we therefore ask that, concurrent with the ongoing consideration of this mining application by the Michigan DEQ, the Marquette County Board proactively enlist or delegate the appropriate resources to conduct a comprehensive study addressing our concerns as to the cumulative impact these proposed mining activities will have on Northern Marquette County."

Comm. Wallace thanked those present for their comments. He explained that their request “to proactively enlist or delegate the appropriate resources.....” would be to appoint Comm. Pellow to attend the DEQ meeting and present these concerns. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appoint Comm. Pellow to represent the County Board addressing the public’s concerns to the DEQ at the April 18, 2006.

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The Committee considered Building Code Software Purchase. Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, explained that the Building Codes Department has been using an in-house developed software system to maintain and manage their Building Code Permits. The software uses a database management package called DataEase. The company that developed DataEase has been out of business since the late 90’s, and support/upgrades are no longer available. At some point in time, DataEase will no longer function correctly with system upgrades to Novell and MicroSoft Windows.

Last fall, a software review group consisting of himself, Greg Sicotte, Building Official, Cathy Smith, Administrative Aide, Joe Benson, Systems Analyst, and members of the Building Code Department Staff, evaluated and tested several Building Codes Software Applications. He explained that their primary concerns included improved office efficiency, permit status tracking, permit fees tracking, inspector scheduling, and improve service to the customers.

After evaluating several Building Code Applications including City View, On-Line Building Permits, PTWin32, and BS&A Software, the review group chose BS&A Software as the software of choice. This choice was based on several factors including, recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee, ease of use, customizable to accommodate multiple jurisdictions, ad-hoc reporting features, customizable scheduling function, internet access capability, current user satisfaction, and overall value for the cost. Also, the County currently uses BS&A Software for Tax Administrations and Delinquent Tax software and is very familiar with BS&A as a service provider.

Mr. Nault explained that the Copy/Computer Fund will fund this purchase at an estimated cost of \$28,500. This estimated amount will be used to purchase the software, training, data conversion, and the licenses required for a new Building Code Software Package.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Building Code Software purchase from BS&A Software in the amount of \$28,500.

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The Committee considered Homeland Security Grants and Projects. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that on August 23, 2005 the Board approved the 2005 Homeland Security Grant Agreement for \$222,258. The Projects that were submitted for the Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$222,258 were approved by the State of Michigan. The approved projects are as follows:

- \$85,239.00 Generators (Placement will be determined through planning and vulnerability assessments).
- \$20,235.00 School Security Systems
- \$73,526.00 Communications (Radios)
- \$ 1,902.00 Multi-Gas Detector
- \$35,000.00 Shelter Assessment, Road Network Analysis, Evacuation Planning (pending).
- \$ 6,356.00 Michigamme Generator Installation

Mr. Powers recommends approving the Amendment to the 2004 Homeland Security Program Grant Agreement to include an additional \$22,000 for 800 MHz radios.

Commissioners thanked Teresa Schwalbach, Emergency Coordinator, for her information regarding the request to the Local Planning Team, including the Fire Services Work Group, to reconsider the purchase of a Personnel Accountability System through the Homeland Security Grant.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Amendment to the 2004 Homeland Security Grant Program Grant Agreement to include an additional \$22,000 for 800 MHz radios to enhance communications interoperability across Michigan for preventing, deterring, responding to, and recovering from threats and incidents of terrorism. The funds must be used for radios.

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The Committee considered Former Baseball Field Sites. Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager, explained that on March 28, 2006 he received a letter from the KI Sawyer Community Association requesting that the County not sell any of the equipment from the former ball fields on Scorpion. The Community Association has requested use of the former fields. Over the past several weeks, the Airport Services Center has received written requests to purchase remaining baseball field fencing, backstops, bleachers, the last scoreboard, and stadium lights. Since the fields have not been in use for a number of years, Staff was going to advertise these items for sale.

Mr. Erbisch further explained that there are two sites remaining at KI Sawyer with fencing, backstops, bleachers, and other miscellaneous equipment.

Scorpion Street: There are two former ball fields on Scorpion. The remaining equipment consists of two backstops with dugouts, and four small bleachers. No lighting, scoreboards, or fencing is to be found at this site. The ball fields are part of a larger parcel owned by the County.

5th Street: There are a total of four fields at the 5th Street location. One field is currently under a Licensing Agreement with North State BMX. This particular field has four sets of bleachers, a backstop, lighting, scoreboard and fencing around the entire field. (Note: The West Branch Community Center will also be requesting use of this field, bleachers, and concession stands for a planned rodeo/fundraiser this summer.

The three remaining fields each have a backstop, fencing, and one with lighting. These fields are on County owned land that is under contract to be sold to Telkite. Telkite is not opposed to the sale of items listed, and would share equally in any revenues.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and Proceed with the sale of the available backstops, fencing, lighting and scoreboard from the 5th Street ball fields using the County's Surplus Personal Property Policy. A public sale will be used. The bleachers and lighting for the field currently under a License Agreement with North State BMX will not be sold until mid summer or fall. 2) Authorize a Licensing Agreement with the KI Sawyer Community Association for the use of the former fields on Scorpion Street for June 1, 2006 through September 31, 2006. Provisions in the Agreement would require the Community Association to maintain the site as well as provide adequate liability insurance. Staff's understanding is the fields will be used for community activities, including baseball.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Patricia Cianciola, County Road 550, Big Bay, again discussed the process to be placed on an agenda.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk